

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 208579

42

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-06 AF-08 EA-07 NEA-10 SS-15 SIG-01

SAJ-01 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 ACDA-07

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EUR/SOV:MGARRISON

ARA:WLUERS (DRAFT)

AF:GKRYZA (DRAFT)

EA:LEEDMOND (DRAFT)

NEA:ADUBS(DRAFT)

C:JMONTGOMERY (DRAFT)

S/S- :SESYEINER

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R 211732Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 208579

INFORM CONSULS

E.O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT

SUBJECT: DISTINCTION BETWEEN "COMMUNISM" AND "SOCIALISM"

1. WE HAVE NOTED A TENDENCY IN OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO MIX THE TERMS COMMUNIST AND SOCIALIST AS IF THEY WERE INTERCHANGEABLE. THIS PLAYS INTO THE HANDS OF THE SOVIETS, WHO WOULD HAVE EVERYONE THINK, AS WELL AS SPEAK, AS THOUGH THE REALITIES OF COMMUNIST RULE HAVE FADED AWAY. TO THIS END, THE SOVIETS AND OTHER COMMUNIST PARTIES ATTEMPT
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PAGE 02 STATE 208579

TO BLUR THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN COMMUNISM AND SOCIALISM,

THUS MAKING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE WESTERN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC TRADITION AND SOVIET-STYLE COMMUNISM APPEAR ONE OF DEGREE AND NOT KIND. IN THE WAKE OF THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF COMMUNIST PARTIES, MOSCOW CAN BE EXPECTED TO STEP UP ITS EFFORTS TO FUZZ THE DISTINCTION IN AN EFFORT TO PROMOTE THE RESPECTABILITY AND POPULARITY OF WESTERN COMMUNIST PARTIES BIDDING FOR POWER THROUGH THE PARLIAMENTARY PROCESS.

2. WE SHOULD KEEP THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN "COMMUNISM" AND "SOCIALISM" CRYSTAL CLEAR IN OUR OWN USAGE. IN OUR PUBLIC STATEMENTS AS WELL AS OUR REPORTING AND OTHER INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS WE SHOULD BE PRECISE IN REFERRING TO STATES

RULED BY COMMUNIST PARTIES AS "COMMUNIST STATES," NOT AS "SOCIALIST STATES" AND SIMILARLY AVOIDING REFERENCES TO "SOCIALISM" IN DESCRIBING THE ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL SYSTEM OF A COUNTRY RULED BY A COMMUNIST PARTY. ROGERS

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